

Message Text

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ACTION AF-18

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SUBJ: MEETING BETWEEN US DEL TO GATE INAUGURAL

AND PRESIDENT SENGHOR

1. SUMMARY: RECEIVING ENTIRE US GATE INAUGURAL DEL
FOR HALF-HOUR DISCUSSION IN THE CABINET ROOM, JULY 23,
PRESIDENT SENGHOR PRAISED BOTH SIZE AND QUALITY OF AMERICAN
PARTICIPATION IN THE OFFICIAL OPENING CEREMONIES.

2. SPEAKING FOR US DEL., DR H. GUYFORD STEVER,
SCIENCE ADVISOR TO PRESIDENT NIXON, CONVEYED THE PRESIDENT'S
GREETINGS AND THE APPRECIATION OF THE AMERICAN GOVT
FOR THE FINE COOPERATION SENEGAL AND FRIENDLY ENVIRONMENT
PROVIDED THE WORLD SCIENTIFIC COMMUNITY FOR REALIZATION GATE
PROJECT.

3. PRESIDENT SENGHOR NOTED US SCIENTIFIC LEADERSHIP IN
METEOROLOGY AND ALL ASPECTS OF ATMOSPHERIC RESEARCH. HE
WELCOMED PARTICIPATION OF SCIENTISTS IN DELEGATION AND THOSE
RESIDENT IN DAKAR IN GATE ACTIVITIES WHICH HOPEFULLY
WOULD PROVIDE MORE KNOWLEDGE ON THE CLIMATIC PROBLEMS THAT
IMPEDE PROGRESS IN THE SAHEL REGION AS FIRST STEP TOWARD A
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BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF THE CYCLES OF THE DROUGHT.

4. IN RESPONSE TO QUESTION ON HIS VIEW OF APPLICATION OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY TO PROBLEMS OF DEVELOPMENT, SENGHOR SAW THE EURO-AMERICAN DISCURSIVE METHOD OF RATIONALITY BRINGING EFFICIENCY AND ABSTRACT ANALYSIS TO SENEGALESE EDUCATIONAL METHODS WHICH NOW GAVE PRIORITY TO THE HUMANIST VALUES AND CIVILIZATION BLACK PEOPLES WERE EXPRESSING IN LITERATURE AND FINE ARTS. A NEW EMPHASIS WAS PLACED ON MATHEMATICS WITH A COMMON PROGRAM FOR ALL PRIMARY AND SECONDARY STUDENTS. OF THE SENEGALESE PASSING THE SCIENCE BACCALAUREATE EXAMINATION, ONE-FOURTH OF THEM WENT ON TO ENGINEERING, MATHEMATICS, THE MOST AFRICANIZED DEPT AT THE UNIV. OF DAKAR, WOULD SEND EIGHT DELEGATES TO THE VANCOUVER INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION IN AUG.

5. DR PETERSON ASKED ABOUT SENEGALESE ACTIVITIES RELATIVE TO ENVIRONMENT. SENGHOR CITED SENEGALESE SENSITIVITIES TO PROBLEMS OF POLLUTION IN VIEW OF DAKAR'S MAJOR WEST AFRICAN PORT AND INDUSTRIALIZATION PLANS. THE MIN. OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT HAD RESPONSIBILITIES FOR DRAFTING ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION LEGISLATION WHICH THE NATIONAL PARTY AND THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS WOULD REVIEW.

6. DR PETERSON INQUIRED ABOUT SENEGALESE GOVT ATTITUDES TOWARDS RELATIONSHIP OF POPULATION, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, AND THE QUALITY OF LIFE. SENGHOR SAID HE RECOGNIZED FAMILY PLANNING AS A WORLD PROBLEM, BUT NOT AS PRESSING IN AFRICA AS IN ASIA. TOTAL AFRICAN POPULATION HARDLY EXCEEDED 300 MILLION. SENEGAL'S 19/20 INHABITANTS PER SQ KILOMETER AND ITS 4 MILLION POPULATION SUGGESTED THAT WITH DAMS AND OTHER MODERN IMPROVEMENTS THE COUNTRY COULD EVENTUALLY SUPPORT A POPULATION OF 20 MILLION. FECUNDITY IS A BASIC ELEMENT OF TRADITIONAL AFRICAN CULTURE. FAMILY PLANNING DOES RECEIVE ATTENTION IN SENEGAL THROUGH SPECIAL COMMISSION, BUT MAJOR EFFORTS ARE IN CITIES AND AMONG SKILLED WORKERS RATHER THAN IN RURAL AREAS. LEGISLATION HAD NOT BEEN SOUGHT BECAUSE THIS WOULD REQUIRE PUBLIC DEBATE AND RAISE STRONG OBJECTIONS FROM RELIGIOUS LEADERS. HOWEVER, WE APPRECIATE FACT THAT AVERAGE SENEGALESE CAN MORE EFFECTIVELY REAR FOUR CHILDREN THAN 10. WE HAVE CERTIFIED LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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CERTAIN CLINCIS FOR FAMILY PLANNING ACTIVITY.

7. IN RESPONSE TO AMB DALE'S QUESTION ON SENEGAL'S HEALTH PROGRAMS AND EFFECTIVENESS OF WHO ROLE, SENGHOR CITED SENEGAL'S PRIORITY ON PUBLIC HEALTH AND PREVENTIVE MEDICINE. HE ALSO MENTIONED NEW STRESS PLACED ON HEALTH EDUCATION IN SCHOOLS, MATERNAL CHILD CARE CENTERS, AND ARTISINS' COOPERATIVES. DECON JULY 27, 1975.

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